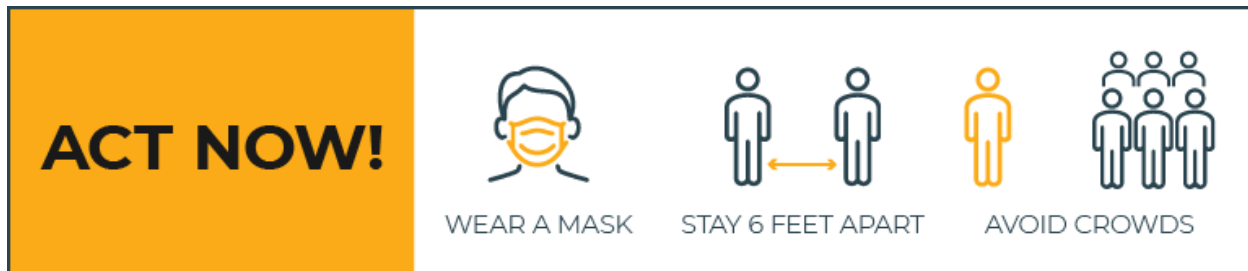




Meriden COVID-19 Response Update – Wednesday, February 3, 2021
From the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

City of Meriden – as of February 1, 2021	Lab-Confirmed and Probable Cases	COVID-19 Associated Deaths
Total Cases	6,076 total (5752 confirmed and 324 probable)	123

***** Meriden is still in “RED” status on the state alert system *****



Statewide and town-by-town case data can be viewed daily at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>.

- Cases can be counted [as confirmed or probable](#). Probable cases of COVID-19 involve persons who have not had confirmatory laboratory testing (RT-PCR) performed for COVID-19, but whose symptoms indicate they are likely to have a COVID-19 infection. In Connecticut, most of the probable COVID-19 cases involve persons whose death certificates list COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

COVID-19 VARIANTS

Governor Ned Lamont announced on January 15 that Connecticut public health officials have confirmed that the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7, commonly known as the UK variant, has been detected in four additional individuals in the state who recently tested positive for COVID-19. This brings the total number of confirmed cases of the UK variant in Connecticut to eight. The eight individuals, who live in New Haven (2), Oxford (3), and West Haven (3), range in age from 15 to 50. Read the full press release [here](#).

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus, a large family of viruses. Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces. Scientists monitor changes in the virus, including changes to the spikes on the surface of the virus. These studies, including genetic analyses of the virus, are helping scientists understand how changes to the virus might affect how it spreads and what happens to people who are infected with it.

Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 are circulating globally:

- The United Kingdom (UK) identified a variant called B.1.1.7 with a large number of mutations in the fall of 2020. This variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants. In January 2021, experts in the UK reported that this variant may be associated with an increased risk of death compared to other variant viruses, but more studies are needed to confirm this finding. It has since been detected in many countries around the world. This variant was first detected in the US at the end of December 2020.
- In South Africa, another variant called B.1.351 emerged independently of B.1.1.7. Originally detected in early October 2020, B.1.351 shares some mutations with B.1.1.7. Cases caused by this variant have been reported in the US at the end of January 2021.
- In Brazil, a variant called P.1 emerged that was first identified in travelers from Brazil, who were tested during routine screening at an airport in Japan, in early January. This variant contains a set of additional mutations that may affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies. This variant was first detected in the US at the end of January 2021.

These variants seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. An increase in the number of cases will put more strain on health care resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths.

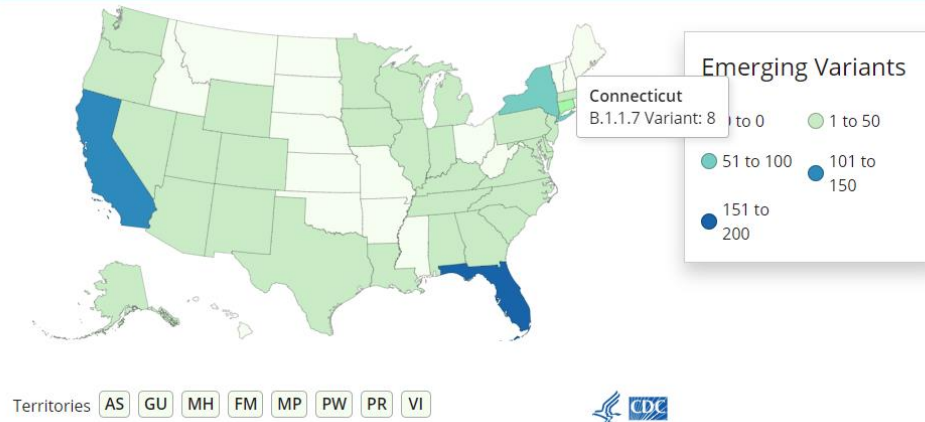
So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway.

Rigorous and increased compliance with public health mitigation strategies, such as vaccination, physical distancing, use of masks, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine, is essential to limit the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 and protect public health.

For more information please visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention webpage](#).

Variant	Reported Cases in US	Number of States Reporting
B.1.1.7	541	33
B.1.351	3	2
P.1	2	1

Emerging Variant Cases in the United States*†



The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It's important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.

*The cases identified above are based on a sampling of SARS-CoV-2-positive specimens and do not represent the total number of B.1.1.7, B.1.351, and P.1 lineage cases that may be circulating in the United States and may not match numbers reported by states, territories, tribes, and local officials.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

**NOTE: OUR SCHEDULED COVID VACCINATION CLINICS HAVE FILLED.
MORE WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN FEBRUARY.**

Those who are phase eligible can call these numbers to make an appointment at other clinics in Connecticut.

- **Hartford Healthcare – 860-827-7690**
- **UConn Health – 860-679-4400**
- **CT COVID Vaccine Assistance Line – 877-918-2224**

- **Online:** A form can be accessed online at ct.gov/covidvaccine that allows individuals to schedule an appointment through the web-based Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS).

As of February 3, 2021, our office has given:




- 1,225 1st dose vaccines
- 170 2nd dose vaccines

Connecticut is currently in Phase 1b of vaccination rollout:

COVID-19 Vaccine in Connecticut

Eligibility, access, and support to help you get vaccinated against COVID-19

Connecticut is currently in **Phase 1b** of our statewide rollout plan.

<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #f4a460; margin-bottom: 10px;">  Phase 1a Get the Details </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Personnel • Longer Term Care Facility Residents • Medical First Responders 	<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #f4a460; margin-bottom: 10px;">  Phase 1b Get the Details </div> <p>Currently Scheduling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals 75 and older <p>Scheduling Soon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front line essential workers • Individuals and staff in congregate settings • Individuals between the ages of 65 and 74 • Individuals between the ages of 16 and 64 with comorbidities 	<div style="background-color: #d9d9d9; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid #d9d9d9;">  Phase 1c Coming Soon </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Information Coming Soon!
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Here are some links if you would like to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccines:

- [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [Federal Food & Drug Administration](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Operation Warp Speed](#)
- [Pfizer](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [State of CT COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#)

Data updates on vaccine administration in Connecticut

The following data represents the total number of COVID-19 vaccinations administered in Connecticut, as reported to the state as of today:

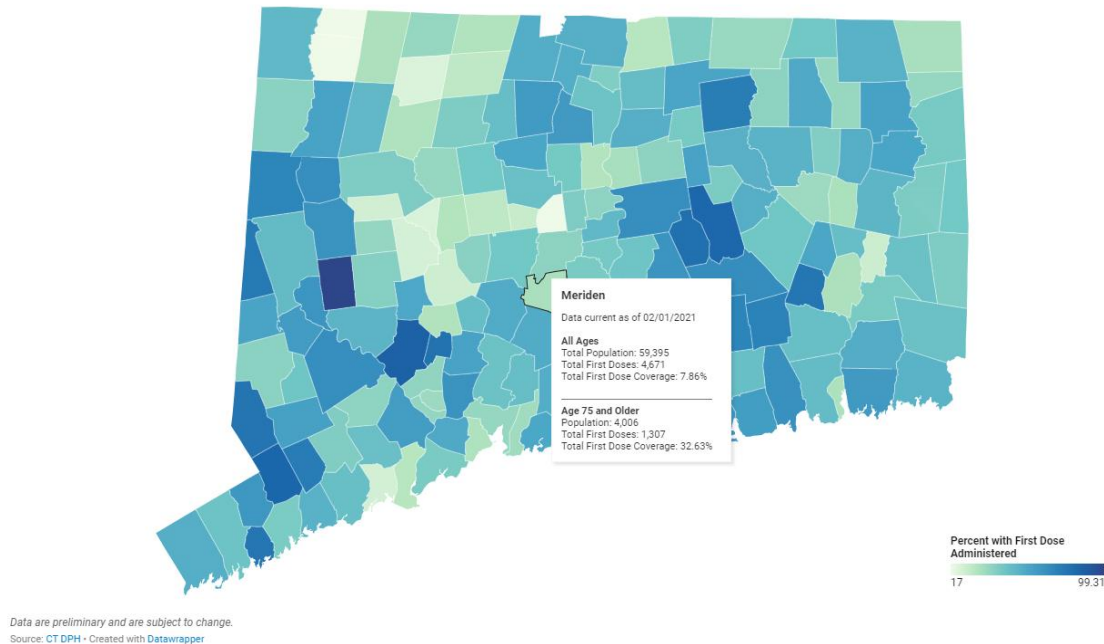
- **First doses administered:** 338,859
- **Second doses administered:** 86,285
- **Total doses administered:** 425,144

So far, the state has vaccinated approximately 45% of its population over the age of 75. Connecticut remains in the top three states in the nation for vaccine administration.

****NEW:** The state has added a map on its Open Data portal indicating distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine by town and city statewide. Going forward, this map will be updated once per week, usually every Thursday.

Percent of Population Age 75 and Older with the First COVID Vaccine Dose Administered

As reported to the CT Immunization Registry (CT WIZ).



TESTING INFORMATION

Here is the link to testing sites in Connecticut, provided by Infoline 211:

<https://tinyurl.com/yax8yg4p>

Local testing sites include:

- [MidState Medical Center](#) (435 Lewis Avenue, call 860-972-8100 for an appointment)
- [Community Health Center](#) (testing at Dunn Sports Complex, 402 Thorpe Avenue, call 475-241-0740 for an appointment)

If you are **not** experiencing symptoms, or if you have had a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, we recommend a [viral test](#), also known as a “PCR” test. This test takes a couple of days to get back from the laboratory.

If you have recent onset of symptoms consistent with COVID-19, you can consider getting an [antigen test](#), also known as a rapid test. This type of test is also for those who undergo serial screening, such as nursing home staff or residents. If you have symptoms, and your antigen test comes back negative, you should get the viral test (PCR) within 48 hours of your antigen test to confirm the results. Stay home until you get your test results.

When in doubt on what type of test to get, call your doctor. **If you are only going to get 1 test, we highly recommend the PCR test, NOT a rapid test.**

**Did you get a COVID-19 test due to feeling sick,
being identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19,
or due to recent travel to a state on the travel advisory list?**

Please **STAY HOME** until you get your test results! Start to think about who you were in contact with 48 hours prior to your symptoms started or before your test. If your test is positive, we will need this information to do effective contact tracing.

Your information is kept **CONFIDENTIAL**.

Were you asymptomatic and got a test?

If you are not sick with symptoms of COVID-19 and you cannot stay home while you wait for your test results, you should wear a mask when out in public and avoid gatherings with people who are not in your immediate household, are over 65 years old, or have medical conditions that place them at increased risk for COVID-19.

SCHOOL UPDATES

**MERIDEN PARENTS – DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL OR ACTIVITIES
WITH A POSITIVE OR PENDING COVID-19 TEST!**

STAY HOME UNTIL YOU GET YOUR RESULTS!

School Dashboard as of February 2, 2021:

Meriden Public Schools Quarantine Dashboard					
	Positive Students	Positive Staff	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Staff	
All Time Totals	225	98	2212	228	
Current Totals	18	6	69	10	
Finished Totals	207	92	2143	218	
	Positive Students	Positive Staff	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Staff	
All Time Percentages	2.78%	8.81%	27.32%	20.50%	
Current Percentage	0.22%	0.54%	0.85%	0.90%	

We also provide guidance to both Wilcox Tech, Thomas Edison Magnet School, and our private schools (not included in the numbers above).

CT School Learning Indicators are intended to assist school districts in determining the level of in-person education they will offer. They are updated weekly and released every Thursday: <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CT-School-Reopening/ddy2-ijgu/>

CONTACT TRACING

If you get a call from one of our contact tracers or a state CT DPH contact tracer, please answer!

Our office continues to use the state [ContaCT Tracing System](#) to follow up on known contacts of COVID-19 positive Meriden residents. We make calls 7 days per week, excluding holidays.



The information collected through ContaCT will be used to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Our contact tracing team consists of 4 part timers, 2 of which are bilingual (Spanish), and our Public Health Educator. The Director of Health and Associate Director of Health also make calls. Contact tracers will provide you with [self-quarantine guidance for a potential COVID exposure](#).

HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO SELF-QUARANTINE BY A LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT?

If you are identified by our office – or any local health department - as a close contact of someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 **please stay home** for [the duration of your quarantine](#). Our office will give you your end of quarantine date.

THIS IS SO IMPORTANT TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN OUR CITY!

If you are under quarantine and go for a COVID-19 test, and the result is negative, **you still need to complete** your quarantine. This is **VERY IMPORTANT** to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community!



Answer the Call SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

If you receive:

- A call from "CT COVID TRACE" or the Meriden Department of Health & Human Services
- An email from SVC-Covid19@ct.gov
- A text from 855-670-0299

Please respond! Your information is kept private, and your response helps protect your loved ones and our community.

Remember: We will **NEVER** ask you for your social security number, any private financial or credit card information, or your immigration status.

Questions? Call 203-630-4226 for more information. Visit www.meridenhealth.com and follow us on Facebook *City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department* for news and updates.



CONTACT TRACING - COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR PROGRAM

If you are asked to isolate or quarantine, but have concerns about income, employment, groceries, housing, or your personal safety, we are here to help. During our contact tracing interview, we will ask if you feel you need help with these services. If you say yes, we can connect you with [Community Resources Coordinator](#) services.

Programs and services include:

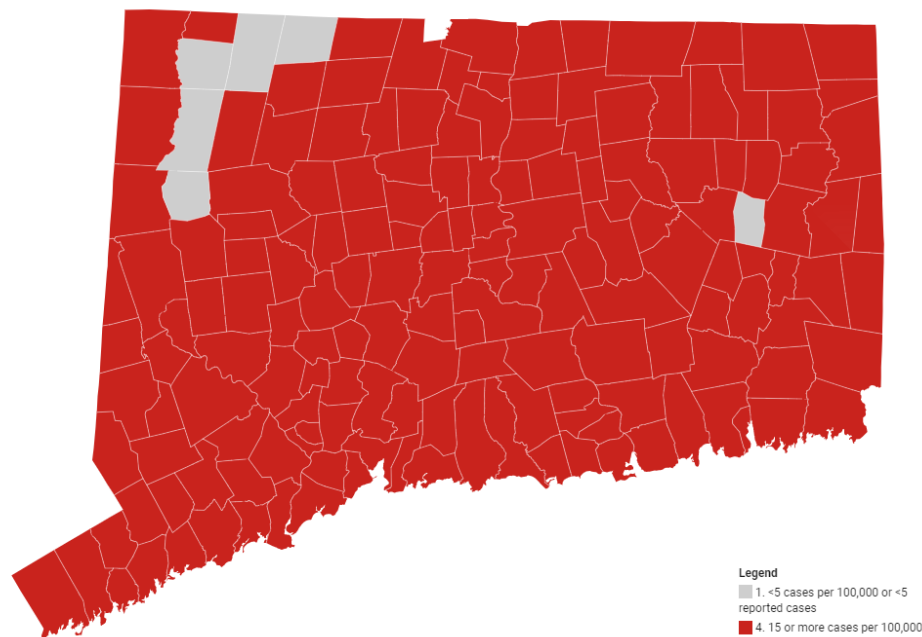
- **The Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) program:** This public-private partnership draws on the strengths and connections of community based organizations and leverages state, federal, local and philanthropic contributions. CRCs will be responsible for working hand-in-hand with the contact tracing team, providers and service organizations to ensure that individuals have access to food, housing, and income they need to stay at home. The state has partnered with five regional community based organizations to run this program, and hire CRCs locally who know their communities – and can ensure individuals get access to what they need quickly.
- **COVID kits for those who need to monitor their symptoms**
- **Housing support**
- **4-CT Cash Cards**
- **Food assistance**

TOWN ALERT LEVELS

The CT DPH launched a [weekly, color-coded COVID-19 alert map](#) for every city and town in the state, identifying the average daily case rate per 100,000 population over the last two weeks. The weekly alert level is also accompanied by municipal-level guidance on recommended actions for individual residents, institutions such as schools, houses of worship, community organizations, municipal leaders, and local health directors.

Week	Cases over 14 days	Case Rate Per 100,000	Percent Test Positivity	Alert Level
9/27 to 10/10	53	6.4	1.4%	Yellow
10/4 to 10/17	68	8.2	1.5%	Yellow
10/11 to 10/24	100	12.0	2.2%	Orange
10/18 to 10/31	238	28.6	4.3%	RED
10/25 to 11/7	436	53.4	6.8%	RED
11/1 to 11/14	624	74.9	8.8%	RED
11/08 to 11/21	626	75.1	8.8%	RED
11/15 to 11/28	634	76.1	8.9%	RED
11/22 to 12/5	748	89.7	10.4%	RED
11/29 to 12/11	831	99.7	10.6%	RED
12/06 to 12/19	673	80.7	9.9%	RED
12/13 to 12/26	635	76.2	10.4%	RED
12/20 to 1/2/21	718	86.1	10.4%	RED
12/27 to 1/9/21	797	95.6	10.4%	RED
1/6 to 1/13/21	732	87.8	9.5%	RED
1/10 to 1/23/21	615	73.8	7.9%	RED

Average Daily Rate of COVID-19 Cases Among Persons Living in Community Settings per 100,000 Population By Town



[This dataset](#) includes a count and rate per 100,000 population for COVID-19 cases, a count of COVID-19 molecular diagnostic tests, and a percent positivity rate for tests among people living in community settings for the previous two-week period. Dates are based on date of specimen collection (cases and positivity).

A person is considered a new case only upon their first COVID-19 testing result because a case is defined as an instance or bout of illness. If they are tested again subsequently and are still positive, it still counts toward the test positivity metric but they are not considered another case.

These case and test counts do not include cases or tests among people residing in congregate settings, such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or correctional facilities.

These data are updated weekly and reflect the previous two full Sunday-Saturday (MMWR) weeks (https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/document/MMWR_week_overview.pdf).

Prior to 10/15/2020, these metrics were calculated using a 7-day average rather than a 14-day average.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

Per Governor Lamont's [Executive Order 9S](#), anyone traveling into Connecticut from a state or territory, other than New York, New Jersey, or Rhode Island, or from a country other than the United States, is directed to self-quarantine for a 10-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state or country. Persons can also get a COVID-19 test and will need to quarantine at home until they get their test results. [Read the Frequently Asked Questions about the travel advisory here.](#)



CT Travel Health Form: Anyone entering from one of the identified states must fill out a travel health form upon arrival.

Travelers can fill out the form online at ct.gov/travelform.

REOPEN RULES

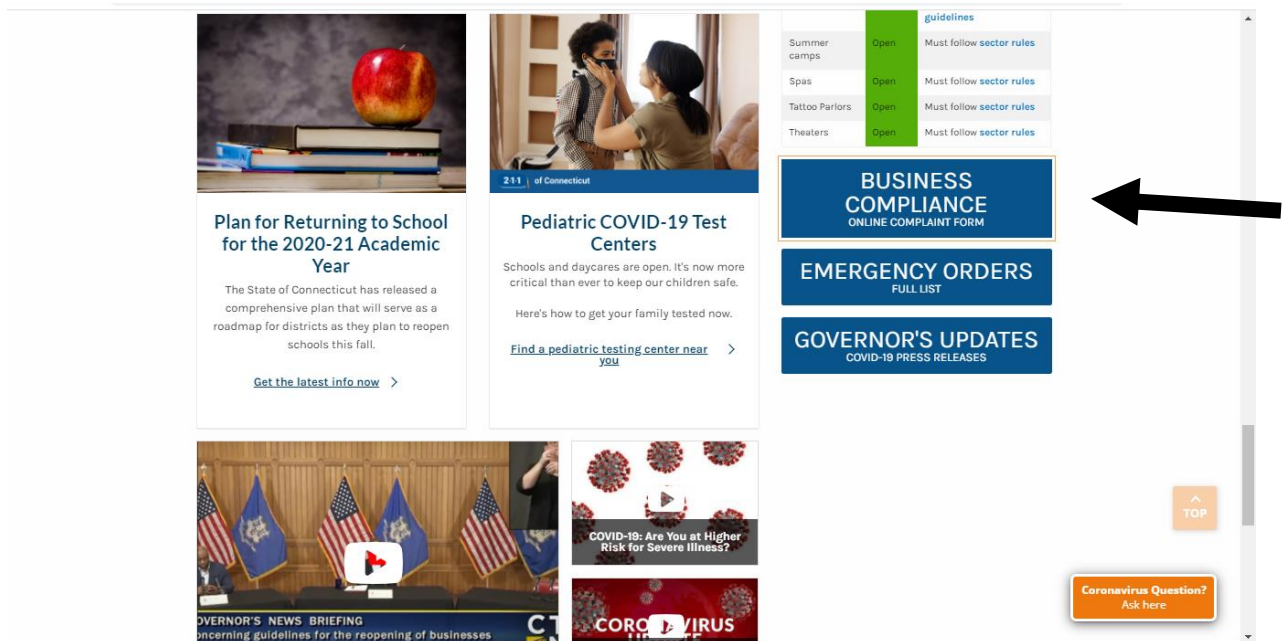
Under Phase 2.1:

- Restaurants are reduced to 50 percent capacity with a maximum of 8 people limited to a table;
- Restaurants and entertainment venues (i.e. bowling allies, movie theaters, arcades, etc.) are required to close by 9:30 p.m., with the exception of food takeout and delivery services, which will be allowed to continue after 9:30 p.m.;

- Personal services, such as hair salons and barber shops, will remain at 75 percent capacity;
- Event venues are limited to 25 people indoor, 50 people outdoor;
- Performing arts venues and movie theaters have a capacity of 100 people; and
- Religious gatherings are limited to 50 percent capacity or 100 people maximum.

The Phase 2.1 sector rules [can be found here](#).

If you are concerned about a Meriden restaurant, barbershop, or salon not following [Reopen Sector Rules](#), please call our Environmental Health office at 203-630-4226. Your concerns will remain anonymous. We inspect all concerns. For all other businesses we will pass the complaint along to the appropriate city representative for follow-up. You can also use the [online business complaint form](#) located on the [ct.gov/coronavirus](#) website.



NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING

Weekly update on the impact of COVID-19 on nursing homes and assisted living facilities

The documents linked below contain the weekly data regarding each of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Connecticut that have reported positive cases of COVID-19 among their residents. The data is presented as it was reported to the state by each of the facilities.

**** Download:** [Report from January 28, 2021 on COVID-19 in Connecticut nursing homes](#)

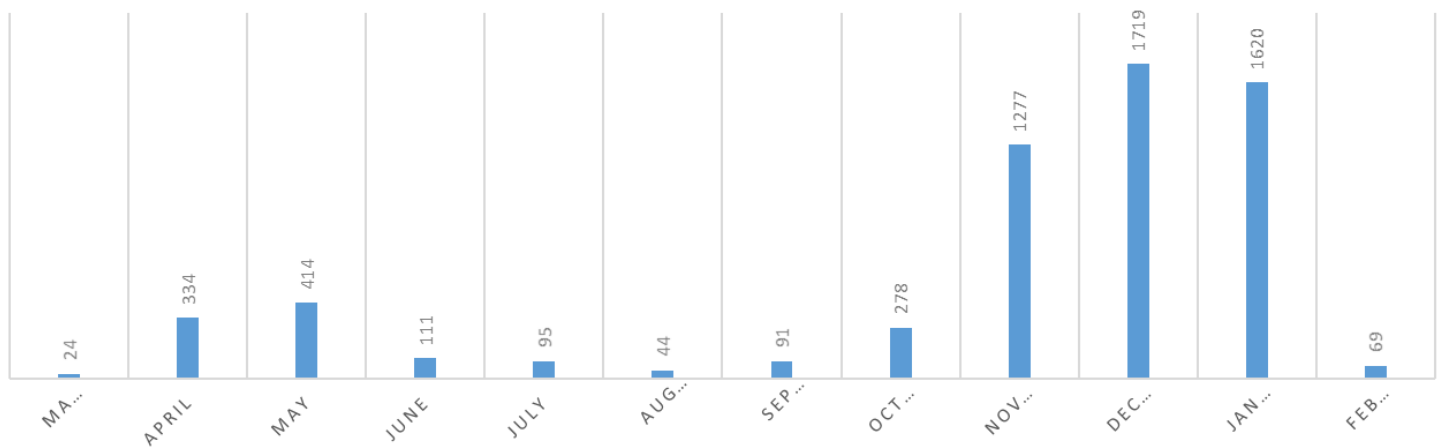
**** Download:** [Report from January 28, 2021 on COVID-19 in Connecticut assisted living facilities](#)

DATA CHARTS

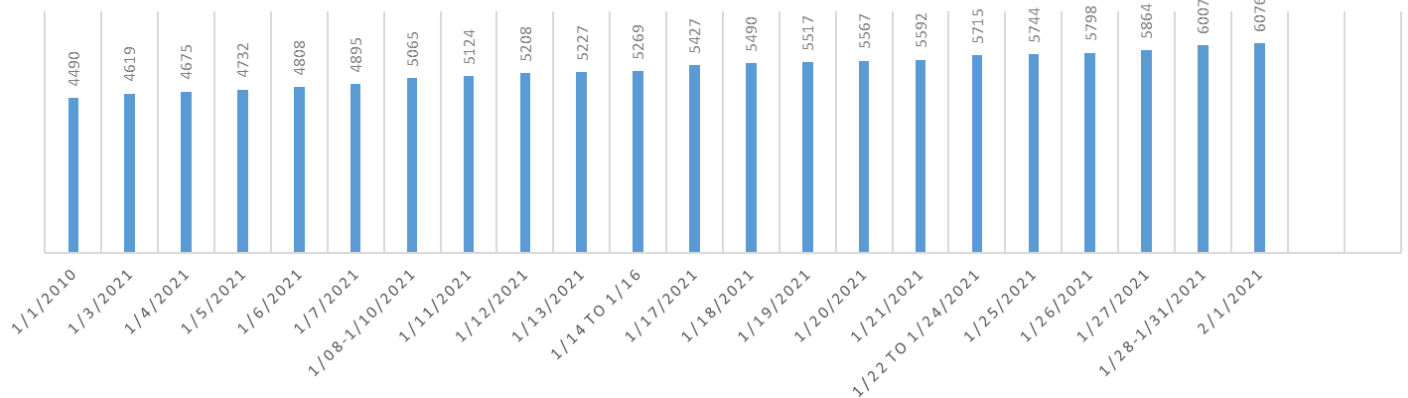
Connecticut COVID-19 Data Tracker

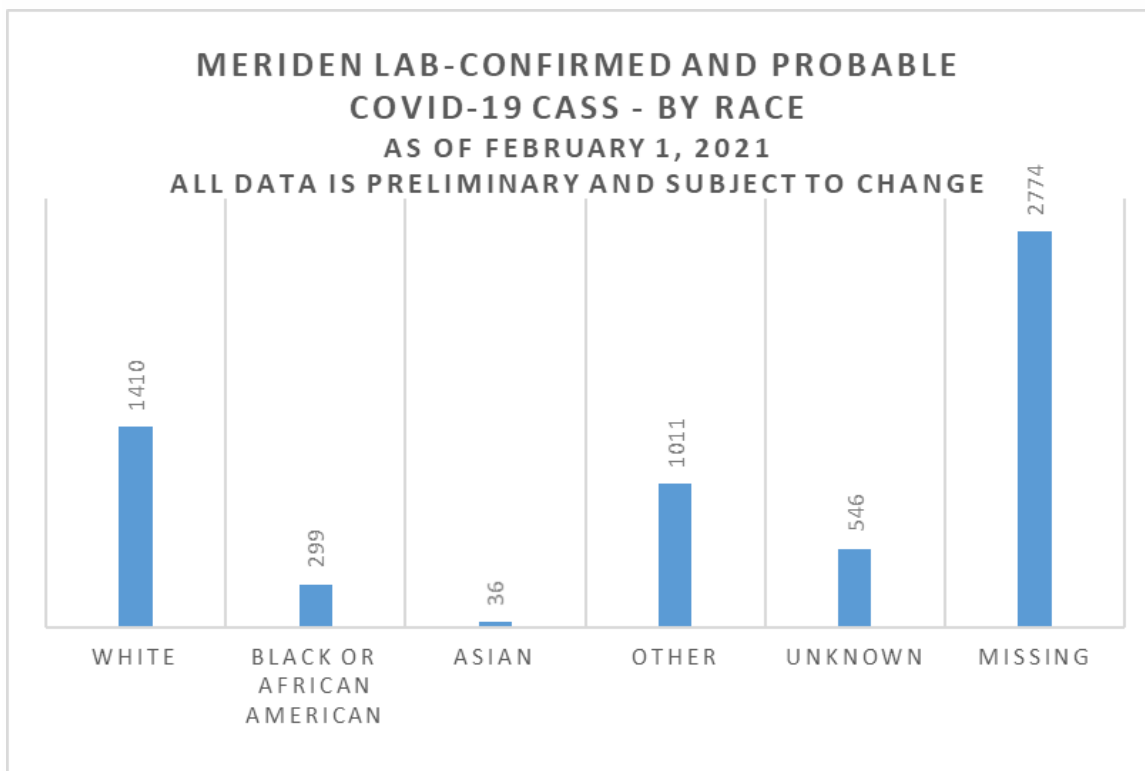
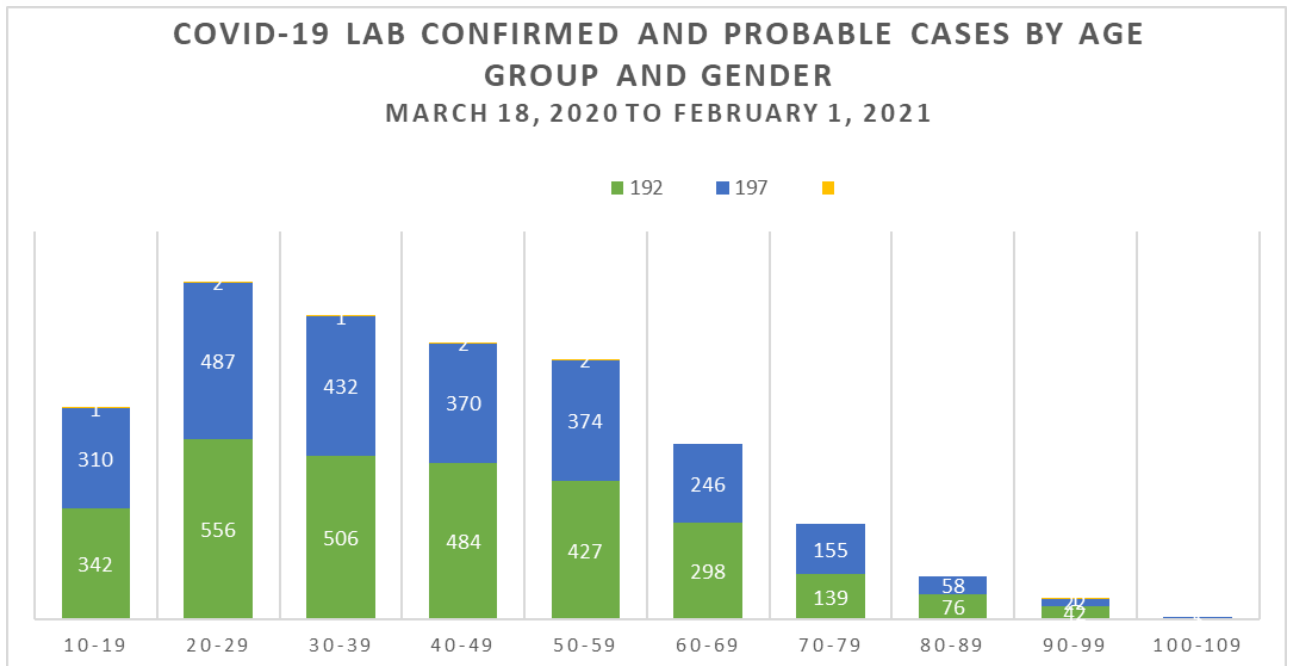
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES: 256,522 | TESTS REPORTED: 5,854,011 | CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED: 900 | DEATHS: 7,133

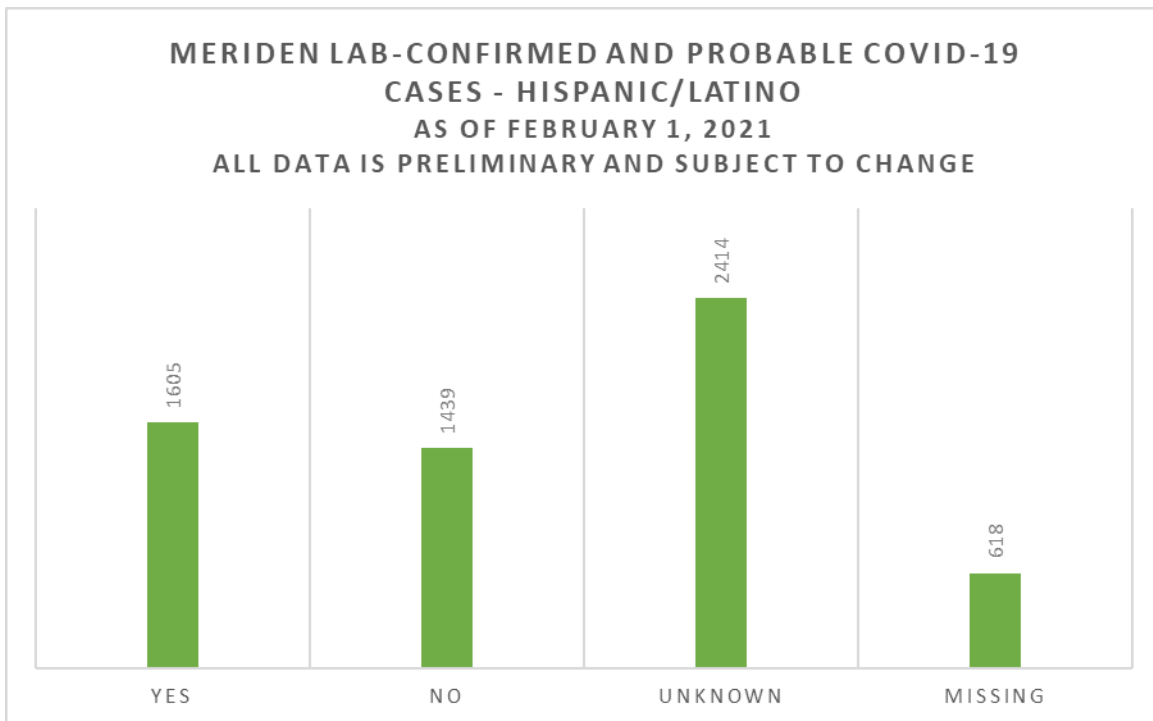
MERIDEN COVID-19 CASES BY MONTH



MERIDEN LAB-CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE COVID-19 CASES JANUARY 1, 2021 TO PRESENT







GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

****All data in this report is preliminary and subject to change. Test results may be reported several days after the results.***

PLEASE do not lose sight of [practicing the everyday preventive actions](#) below. They are simple and *they work*:

- If you are older or have a serious chronic illness, please avoid crowds.
- Practice social distancing, and [follow these guidelines](#) when running essential errands.
- If you must go out and social distancing is hard to maintain, the [CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering](#).
- If you have visitors to your home, [follow the Governor's guidelines](#) on gatherings to reduce risk of disease transmission.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your cough and sneeze with a tissue; throw out the tissue in a lined trash container.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid hand shaking or elbow bumps – wave hello instead.
- [Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily](#). These include tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles using a regular household detergent and water. Then, disinfect the surface and object [using an EPA approved product](#).
- [Wash your hands often](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or

sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always wash your hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.

COVID-19 continues to be a rapidly changing challenging public health issue. We urge Meriden residents to stay informed. Please visit the following websites often:

- CDC Coronavirus website – www.cdc.gov.
- CT Department of Public Health website: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>.
- City updates are being posted at <https://www.meridenct.gov/covid-19-information/>